

Appl. No. 10/015,191

Filed: 11/21/2001

Atty Dkt No.: HM-69621

Thanh K. Truong, Patent Examiner

Art Unit 3721

Title: MULTI-PURPOSE OFFICE TOOL

**Rule 111 Amendment "A" in Response to
12/15/04 Office Action**

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, beginning at paragraph 4, and page 2, lines 1-7, please replace with the following:

One of the disadvantages of these types of tools, however, is that the utility of the tool is limited because the implement is so small that very little actuating force can be placed thereon without breaking either the implement or the tool housing that the implement is attached to. Another disadvantage is that because the implement is permanently fixed to the parent housing, the implements cannot be detached from the parent housing and used by themselves. This is ~~probably just as well, as~~ appears mandatory because otherwise, the detached implement would have no housing/gripping surface of its own[[.]] ~~and, hence~~ Hence, there would be no means of applying an actuating force for operation.

On page 2, please replace paragraph 2 with the following amended paragraph:

Some examples for enclosing miniaturized implements in thin housings are shown in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,934,528, No. 973,930, No. 464,405 and No. ~~2,412,050~~ 2,412,056. The patented devices shown in the above patents most often utilize hinges, clasping mechanisms, pivot arms, levers and spring means. As a result, they are not convenient to carry as a personal item and they are oftentimes difficult to use. Further, these patents do not disclose miniaturized office implements such as punches, staplers, scissors, and the like which can either be used alone, or which cooperate with the housing to allow for a greater actuating force to be ~~to be~~ imparted through the housing to actuate the implement.

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On page 2, please replace paragraph 3 with the following amended paragraph:

In light of the above, it is an object of the present invention to provide a multipurpose office tool containing a variety of miniaturized implements which are adapted for office use. It is another object of the present invention to provide a multipurpose office tool wherein the miniature office implements cooperate with the storage overall housing ~~to allow for a greater for imparting a more effective~~ actuating force~~[[.]] to be use thereon~~. It is another object of the present invention to provide a multipurpose office tool wherein the miniature office implements can be selectively detached from the ~~storage~~ housing and used as stand-alone implements. It is another object of the present invention to provide a multipurpose office tool that is easy to use and convenient to manufacture.

On page 4, please replace paragraph 3 with the following amended paragraph:

The hole punch ~~includes~~ has a punch casing that includes a pair of opposing grooves. When the hole punch is fixed to the housing, the hole punch is inserted into the corner opening, which causes the grooves in the punch casing to frictionally engage a corresponding guide rail in the corner opening. The housing also includes paper insertion slots in the housing that align with the working slot of the hole punch. In this manner, material to be punched can be inserted into paper slots, and the housing can be used to impart a greater force on the hole punch in the same manner as for the stapler described above. Alternatively, the hole punch can be removed from the corner opening and used as a stand-alone implement.

On page 7, please replace paragraph 2 with the following amended paragraph:

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Although the housing specifically described and shown herein defines a generally open interior, the housing could alternatively comprise a multi-layered laminate or a unitary molded piece. Accordingly, all references herein to any front, back, first side, second side, top and bottom wall shall also mean the front, back, first, second, top and bottom sides of the housing no matter how the housing ~~was~~ is constructed.

On page 9, please replace the last paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

The tool housing 12 includes a polygonal socket 42 which is recessed into the lower portion of front wall 14 between recess end wall 34 and second side wall 20. Preferably, the socket is located adjacent the recess end wall, although other locations on the front wall (or rear wall) are envisioned. The socket is formed with an implement opening 44 for insertion of an implement 78[[.]] ~~in a manner set forth in the inventor's co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/404,462 filed 9/24/99 for an invention entitled "Combined Pocket Implements With Multi-Function Housing".~~

On page 13, please replace paragraph 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Fitted into the implement notch and opposing slots is a multi-faceted implement 78. ~~the~~ The implement has an implement casing 110 with a diameter about equal to the depth of implement notch 60 discussed above. As shown in Fig. 9, first and second implement working parts 116, 118 extend coaxially from respective opposing ends of casing 110. When the implement casing is inserted into implement notch 60 for storage, the working parts move into implement slots 62, 62. As best shown in Fig. 1, the implement slots have a width less

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than the diameter of the working parts so that an effective frictional engagement occurs with each working part to maintain the overall implement in a secure stowed position.

On page 14, please replace paragraph 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The utility of the multi-purpose tool is increased by including a stapler 80. The stapler comprises a base 82 and an actuating member 85 that is pivotably attached to the base at a back end in a manner known in the prior art for staplers. Typically, a torsion spring biases the base and actuating member angularly apart. The top surface 86 of the actuating member includes a pair of opposing longitudinal flanges 88, 88, as best seen in Figs. 1 and 9. The flanges frictionally engage corresponding undercut slots 40, 40 of housing groove 39 for detachably mounting the stapler to the housing.

On page 14, please replace paragraph 2 with the following amended paragraph:

The stapler has an open end defined by angle α between base 82 and surface 86 of the actuating member 85. This angle is about equal to, or preferably greater than, angle Δ between the bottom wall 24 of the housing and inclined wall 26 of stapler recess 38 (best seen in Figs. 8 and 9). The corresponding angles α and Δ allow for the stapler and the recess to have approximately the same profile. This configuration allows the stapler to fit within the recess when stowed, while maintaining an overall rectangular profile for the overall tool.

On page 15, please replace paragraph 2 with the following amended paragraph:

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It will also be appreciated that by having the stapler located in a lower corner of the housing, the larger size of the housing can be used as an adjunct casing part when punching down to effect a stapling action. Oftentimes, a fairly significant force is required to staple together multiple (or thick) sheets of paper, fabric, laminates, or other sheet materials. In these instances, having a greater leverage provided by pushing down on the overall housing, rather than just stapler casing 84, is a ~~real~~ significant advantage.